

Hit women

Director Gus Van Sant's film "To Die For," adapted from the novel by Joyce Maynard, is a reworking of the Pamela Smart saga in which a young woman from Little Hope, N.H., sets out to become a media star. At any price. We know what happens to Nicole Kidman's character in the movie. What about Maynard and Smart?

MURDER, SHE WROTE: JOYCE MAYNARD

Vital stats: 41 years old, living in Keene, N.H.
Education: Phillips Exeter Academy, Yale University.
Professional resume: New York Times staffwriter; syndicated columnist; free-lance journalist; novelist.
Recent accomplishment: "Where Love Goes," Maynard's third novel, debuted last month to ho-hum reviews. In a publishing first, Maynard also issued a CD collection of songs by well-known country and folk artists that inspired her while writing the book.
Critical consensus: If progressive country/folk music is your thing, bag the book and buy the CD.
Sideline: Publishes Domestic Affairs, a monthly newsletter for devotees of her now-defunct syndicated column on motherhood, matrimony and family relations.
Marital status: Divorced.
Famous love interest: Reclusive author J.D. Salinger, with whom Maynard lived for a year after dropping out of Yale following her freshman year.
Movie connection: Has a cameo role playing the defense attorney for Suzanne Stone Maretto (Kidman).
Media moment I: Posed for the April 23, 1972, cover of The New York Times Magazine as author of "An 18-Year-Old Looks Back at Life."
Media moment II: Revealed on National Public Radio that she carried the ashes of her deceased mother in a briefcase during the filming of her scene in "To Die For."
Signature song: "Baby Took a Limo to Memphis," Guy Clark.
You know fame is weird when: You inform Times readers, "I knew she must somehow but I could never imagine Jackie Kennedy going to the bathroom"—and everybody remembers it 20 years later.
Maynard on Maretto: "To me she's not so much evil as empty. Writing the book was almost like channeling."

MURDER, SHE WROUGHT: PAM SMART

Vital stats: 27 years old, from Derry, N.H.; currently confined to Bedford Hills (N.Y.) Correctional Facility for Women.
Education: Pinkerton Academy, Florida State University.
Professional resume: Disc jockey, WVFS-FM (nickname: Maiden of Metal); news intern, WCTV in Florida.; media coordinator, Winnacunnet Regional High School in Hampton, N.H.
Recent accomplishment: Rebuffed by US Supreme Court in October 1993 after seeking to overturn conviction as an accomplice to first degree murder. Currently serving a life sentence for conspiring to kill husband Gregory Smart in 1990.
Critical consensus: Should have hired Johnnie Cochran Jr.
Sideline: Supports the efforts of the Friends of Pamela Smart and a newsletter published on her behalf.
Marital status: Widowed.
Famous love interest: Gullible high-school student William Flynn, doing hard time for bumping off her unsuspecting hubby.
Movie connection: Real-life inspiration for Suzanne Stone Maretto (Kidman).
Media moment I: Told ABC's Diane Sawyer, "I believe I was convicted on a moral issue in that my relationship with Bill Flynn so incensed people that it started the whole flow of negative images of me."
Media moment II: Smart's trial judge told reporters that he wanted Clint Eastwood to play him in the movie.
Signature song: "Hot for the Teacher," Van Halen.
You know fame is weird when: Helen Hunt ("Mad About You") portrays you in the CBS movie based on your life, and nobody remembers it two years later.
Flynn on Smart: "She definitely has some issues mentally that, you know, are off-balance or off-kilter."

N.H. Room -- Lateral File

Folder: Smart, Pamela
Source: Boston Globe

Item:

Date: 10-9-95



"To Die For" author
Joyce Maynard, left, and her
inspiration, Pamela Smart.